



Sustainable Food Management: “Feed People, Not Landfills”

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Waste2Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

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Why Target Food Waste?

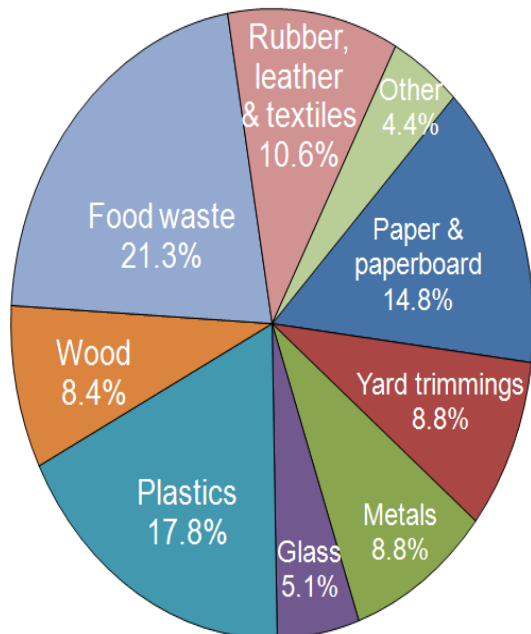
Food is simply too good to waste!

- **Costs U.S. \$165 billion annually.**
- **Contributes to 14% of domestic GHG emissions.**
- **1 in 6 Americans** lack a secure supply of food.

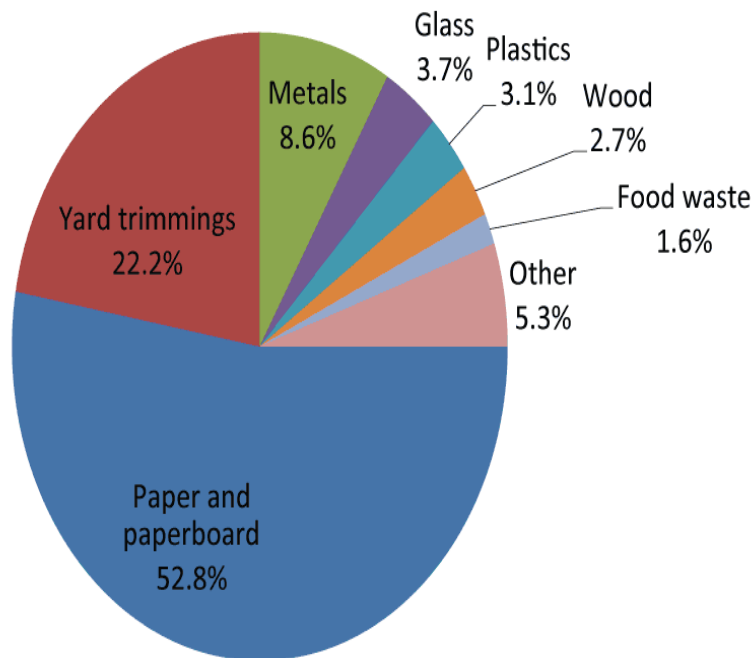


Food is the most discarded material in our waste stream (21.3%) and the least recovered (1.6%)

Total MSW Discards (by material), 2011
164 Million Tons (after recycling)



Total MSW Recovery (by material), 2011



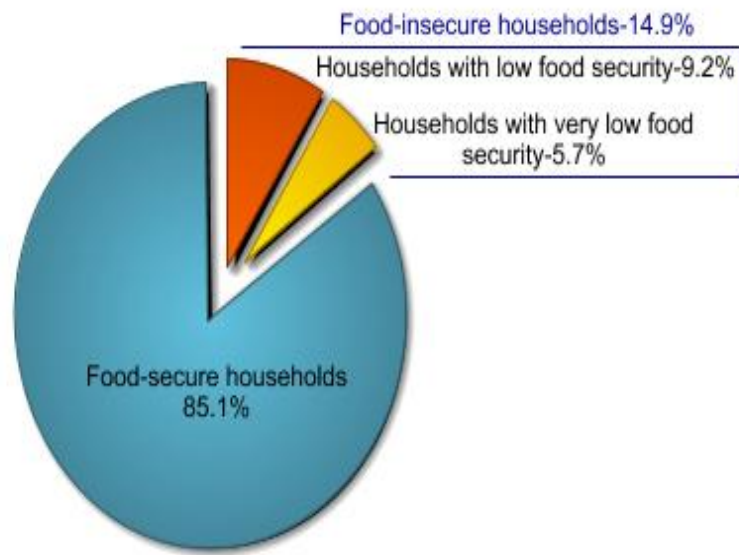
Environmental Impacts of Food Waste



- Food waste decomposes in landfills, producing methane (21x more potent GHG than CO₂) for decades
- Growing food accounts for 25% of all fresh water use in the United States annually and 16% of our energy consumption
- Increasing production levels on farms can lead to soil degradation, causing the soil to become less productive

Every year, over 50 million Americans don't have access to sufficient safe and healthy food

U.S. households by food security status, 2011

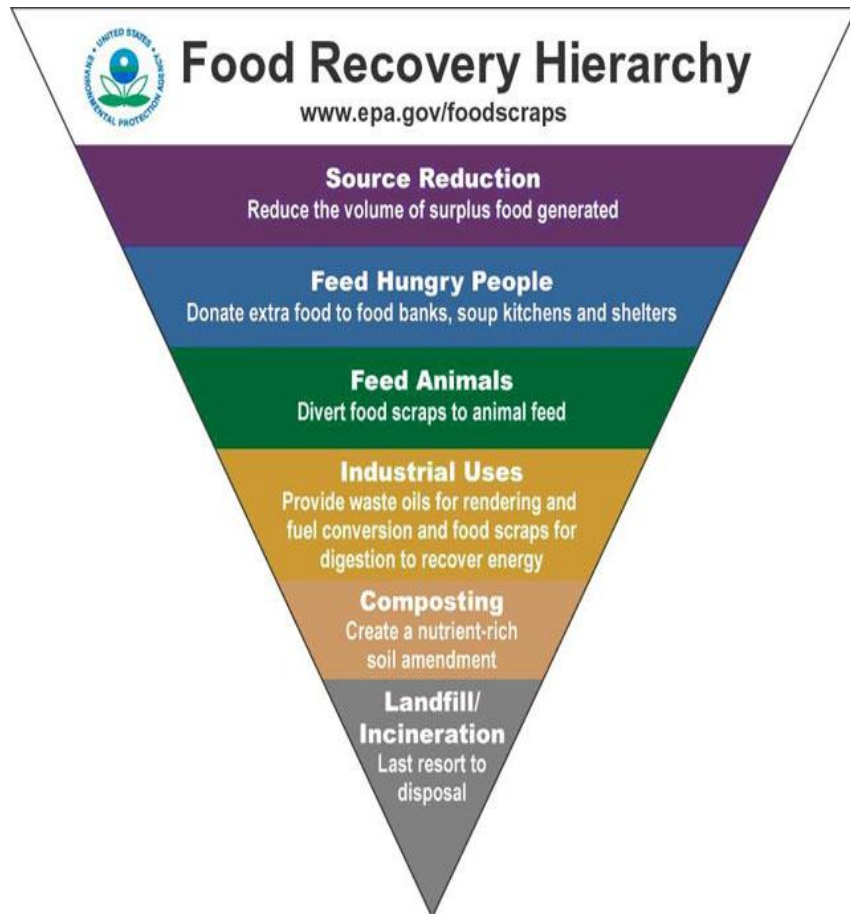


Source: Calculated by ERS using data from the December 2011 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.

- In 2011, 36 million tons of food waste was generated in the United States
- Diverting just 15% of discarded edible food to hunger relief organizations could feed 25 million hungry people every year



EPA's Sustainable Food Management Program



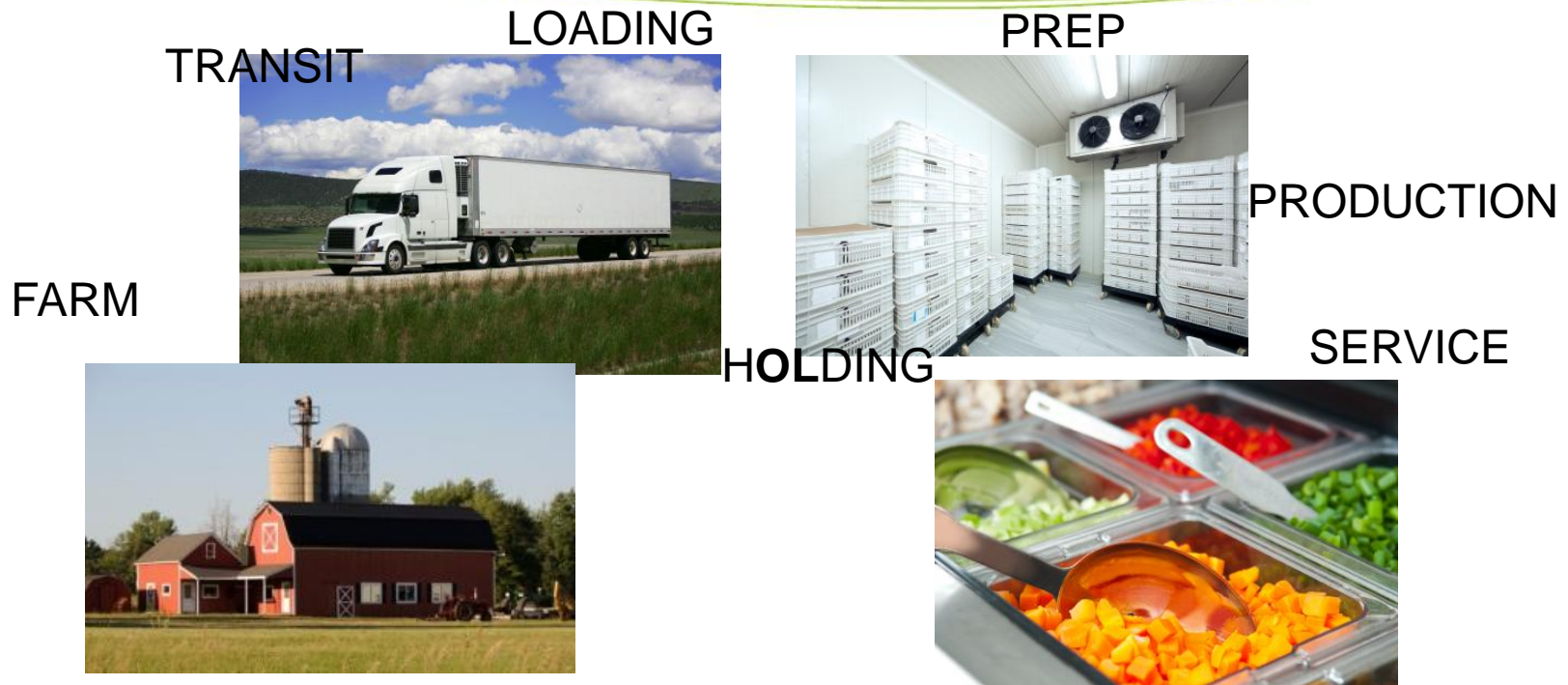
Food Recovery Challenge

Focus: Commercial Food Waste Reduction

Food: Too Good to Waste

Focus: Residential Food Waste Reduction

Prevention is The Key to Both Cost Savings and Environmental Impacts



Every food item we throw away results in a large amount of invisible embedded energy and other resources being wasted.

What Is Food Waste Prevention?

- Reduce overbuying
- Increase proper storage to prevent spoilage
- Reducing prep and plate waste
- Preventing improperly cooking food
- Going trayless (shown to reduce food waste by up to 40%); offer wider variety of portions
- Reuse excess food (e.g., veggies to soup stock, fruit to dessert garnish, bread to croutons, rice to fried rice)

Food Donation: Feeding Hungry People

Working with Rock and Wrap It Up, the New York Giants football team boxes up all the leftover meals from locker rooms, corporate offices, and suites following games, delivering nearly 10,000 meals every football season to the Bowery Mission, a New York City charity.



A How-to Guide for Food Service Providers

Feeding Animals and Industrial Uses

Rutgers University (NJ) dining halls have partnered with Pinter Farms, which collects over 2,200 lbs. of food scraps per day from its and feeds it to their hogs and cattle

Four Seasons Hotel Philadelphia collects kitchen food scraps, sending them to a local composter, then purchases the compost for use in their landscaping

Snoqualmie Tribe (WA) saved \$40k in their first year over the cost of disposal by send kitchen cooking grease to local biofuel manufacturer.



Benefits of Adding Compost to Soil

- Increasing Soil's Organic Matter:
 - Reduces drought & need for irrigation, by dramatically increasing water retention
 - Reduces or prevents soil erosion
 - Reduces the need for fertilizers & pesticides
 - Restores damaged & contaminated soils



EPA's Food Recovery Challenge Program



Who has joined EPA's Food Recovery Challenge?

(Close to 700 participants nationwide)



Joining EPA's Food Recovery Challenge

1. Conduct a baseline assessment within 90 days
2. Set a three-year goal, committing to increase food source reduction, donation and/or recycling by 5% in the first year
3. Undertake food waste reduction and recovery activities and track them
4. Report annually using Re-TRAC Connect (produces reports, graphs, climate profile)
 - Also seeking FRC Endorsers such as WDOE, LeanPath, CedarGrove Composting

Re-TRAC Climate Profile (Free FRC Reporting Tool)

- Instant access to data reports
- Individualized climate profile
- EPA assistance to input data

These GHG reductions are equivalent to one of the following:



The annual GHG emissions from this many passenger vehicles

236
0
762



Acres of standing forest (based on CO2 sequestration per tree)

9
0
29



Annual emissions from the energy consumption of this many households (based on annual emissions per household)

117
0
378



This many gallons of gasoline (based on CO2 emissions per gallon)

146,734
0
472,303



Number of propane cylinders used for home barbeques (based on CO2 emissions per pound of propane)

53,863
0
173,374



Tons of waste recycled instead of landfilled (based on CO2 emissions per ton of waste landfilled)

445
0
1,434

Food: Too Good to Waste



- Food: Too Good to Waste (FTGTW) is supported by the West Coast Climate & Materials Management Forum
- Goal: Reduce food waste at home
- Designed by a diverse planning team of 25 state, city and county government partners
- www.westcoastclimateforum.com/food
- King County, WA:
www.recyclefood.com



What Is “Food: Too Good To Waste”?

Community-Based Social Marketing Toolkit Comprised of:

- **Research Report**
- **Implementation Guide (coming soon)**
- **Message Map**
- **Behavior Change Tools:** fruit and vegetable storage guide; shopping list template with meals in mind; infographic/poster; measurement bag; presentation for community participants.

Food Waste Source Reduction Toolkit

(Assessing waste is the first step to reducing it!)

- Excel Spreadsheet tool for food and packaging wastes
- Provides instructions on how to calculate cost savings
- Also addresses packaging, which accounts for 23% of all material reaching landfills each year



Food Waste Management Cost Calculator

- Estimates cost competitiveness of alternatives to sending waste to landfill
- Allows user to enter site-specific data on an Excel spreadsheet
- Considers access to food banks, local farms to feed animals, and access to off-site composting
- Consider Preferences/Costs; calculates economic benefits of source reduction



epa.gov/osw/conserve/materials/organics/food/tools/

More Food Resource Conservation Resources

- Foodcowboy.com - Rerouting surplus edible food to hunger relief organizations
- Rockandwrapitup.org - Arranges collection of leftover food from concerts, sporting events, corporate meetings to feed hungry people
- Leanpath.com - Automated food waste prevention tracking systems
- Eugenerecycles.org - “Love Food, Not Waste” Commercial Food Waste Collection Program

Thank You

EPA's Food Recovery Challenge:

www.epa.gov/smm/foodrecovery

Download the FTGTW Toolkit:

www.westcoastclimateforum.com/food

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